

**AMENDMENTS IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

In Paragraph [0005]:

[0005] FIG. 1 shows a configuration for a conventional disk drive 100. A disk 101 is stored in a cartridge 102 and has an information storage layer L. An optical pickup ~~13~~-103 includes an objective lens 123 and an actuator 122 for driving the objective lens 123 and detects the light that has been reflected from the information storage layer L of the disk 101.

A focus error signal generating circuit 112 generates a focus error signal, representing how much the focal point of the light has shifted from the information storage layer L, based on the output of the optical pickup ~~13~~-103. In response to the output of the focus error signal generating circuit 112, a focus control circuit 120 outputs a focus control signal to get the focal point located right on the information storage layer L. An actuator driver circuit 121 drives the actuator 122 responsive to a drive control signal e, thereby moving the objective lens 123 perpendicularly to the information storage layer L.

In Paragraph [0048]:

[0048] Following operations are performed in response to the retraction signal. Specifically, first, the retraction signal rises to a signal level Elv11, which is associated with a position of the objective lens 23 that is closer to the disk 1 than the farthest position thereof is. In response to the retraction signal with the signal level Elv11, the objective lens 23 moves quickly to a position, from which the information

storage layer **L** is located at a distance **Lv1**. Such a position will be referred to herein as a "position **Lv1**". Once the objective lens **23** reaches the position **Lv1**, the retraction signal gradually falls to a signal level **Elv12**. As a result, the objective lens **23** falls down to a retraction position ~~**Elv12**~~ **Lv2**, which corresponds to the "farthest position" described above. When the objective lens **23** reaches this position, the retraction is complete at the time **t1**. Since the objective lens **23** is fixed at this retraction position after that, the signal level of the retraction signal is maintained at **Elv12**.

In Paragraph [0051]:

[0051] Following operations are performed in response to the velocity control signal. Specifically, first, the velocity control signal rises from the signal level **Elv12** to a signal level **Elv13** at a relatively high rate of change (as represented by the gradient of the graph shown in portion **(e)** of FIG. 4). As a result, the objective lens **23** starts to move rather quickly from the retraction position ~~**(Elv12)**~~ **(Lv2)** toward the disk **1**. Once the signal level reaches **Elv13** (i.e., once the objective lens **23** reaches the position **Lv3**), the velocity control signal starts to increase its level at a slower rate of change. Accordingly, the objective lens **23** starts to move at a lower velocity.

In Paragraph [0070]:

[0070] On seeing that the objective lens **23** still stays at the retraction position **Lv2**, the system controller **30** issues an instruction to unload the disk at the time **t11**. Then,

while the objective lens **23** is still held at the retraction position ~~(Elv12)~~ (Lv2), the disk tray (not shown) is ejected out of the disk drive **10**, thereby unloading the disk **1**. The user removes the disk **1** from the disk tray and then the disk tray is inserted back into the disk drive **10**. Then, at the time **t11**, the system controller **30** judges that the unloading operation has ended and instructs the retraction control section **52** and the switching circuit **55** to stop outputting the retraction signal. As a result, the driver circuit **60** stops driving the actuator **22**, and the actuator **22** and the objective lens **23** coupled to the actuator **22** go back to their neutral (rest) positions.

In Paragraph [0071]:

[0071] According to this preferred embodiment, when the disk **1** starts being loaded, the retraction signal is generated to retract the actuator **22** to the position **Lv2**. Likewise, when the instruction to end the focus control is issued, the objective lens **23** is also retracted to, and held at, the position **Lv2**. Furthermore, on finding the output of the light amount detecting circuit **42** less than the predetermined value **Clv1** while the focus control is being performed, the monitoring circuit **51** detects the loss of focus control and retracts the objective lens **23** to the retraction position ~~(Elv12)~~ (Lv2), too. Consequently, even when the control is no longer working, a serious collision of the objective lens **23** against the disk **1** can be avoided.